GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2714
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
ASH FROM POWER PLANTS
JASKAUR MEENA;RAM SINGH KASWAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fly ash emanating from power plants is proving to be helpful in increasing the agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether any test in this regard have been conducted;

(c) the extent of increase in agricultural production in percentage as a result thereof; and

(d) the quantity of fly ash that emanates from various thermal power plants in the country every year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) Preliminary studies carried out by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Government of India on the use of fly ash in agriculture show that it has potential of being helpful in increasing crop production.

(b)&(c) The ICAR have conducted short term studies on crops, such as, bajra, mustard, wheat, rice and groundnut where yield increase has been observed. The Department of Science and Technology under the Govt. of India, is also implementing a Mission Project on fly ash. Under this Project, with the use of fly ash, an average increase in crop yields of the order of 15-25% has been observed. Fly ash also contains toxic/heavy metals which may affect the soil health adversely in the long run. The results of long term studies under the Mission Project will, therefore, help in understanding the overall effect of fly ash on crop yields and soil productivity.

(d) The production of fly ash from various Thermal Power Stations in the country during 1998-99 was estimated to be around 80.0 million tonnes.